

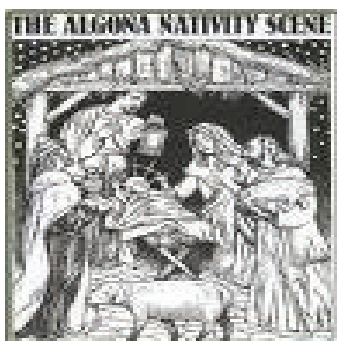
Sacred Heart Catholic Church - Bellingham, WA.

Fourth Sunday Of Advent

"Hail full of grace!" This was the greeting of the angel Gabriel to Mary. What Mary finds out is that she has conceived by the Holy Spirit. To be found with child before marriage in Mary's time and culture is probably the worst possible situation one can be in. How is this grace? "Full of shame" is probably more accurate given the situation. The fact remains: Mary's conception of Jesus is the greatest grace the world has ever experienced. What seemed to the world to be a shame, was in reality, a grace.

As Christmas approaches, you could probably guess what things you will receive from the size and wrappings of the gift. Can you guess what spiritual gifts you will receive? It may not come to you as you anticipate. I had been asking for the gift of humility for a while. Within the last week, I received it twice. I was pulled aside by a friend once and by a priest a second time and was told, "You are selfish. You like to talk about yourself. Do you always have to dominate the conversation?" I paraphrased here, but it is fairly accurate. What initially felt like being filled with shame was in reality, a reception of a grace. What spiritual gift are you hoping for this Christmas? Pay close attention, it's not in the usual wrapping.
Fr. Qui-Thac Nguyen.

**The Parish Office will be closed on the following dates:
December 24th, at noon through January 1st.**



On Behalf of the staff, we wish you and yours a happy and joyful Christmas Season.

Please note the Christmas Mass Schedule

Children's Christmas Mass	Dec.24th at 5:00 p.m.
Christmas Eve Vigil Mass	Dec. 24th at 9:00 p.m.
Christmas Midnight Mass	Dec. 24th at Midnight
Christmas Mass at Dawn	Dec. 25th at 8:30 a.m.
Christmas Day Mass	Dec. 25th at 11:00 a.m.

Carols will begin half an hour before each Mass

**Holy Day Of Obligation
Mary Mother Of God
January 1, 2009**

**There will be a Vigil Mass, December 31st at 5:00 p.m.
and Mass on January 1st, at 10:00 a.m.**

Conversations with Fr. Bob

Tune in to Sacred Heart Radio KBLE AM 1050 on Tuesday, December 23rd between 5:00-6:00 p.m. to "Conversations with Father Bob". This week Fr. Bob Camuso will speak with **Doug Strauss**, father of 11 year old Gloria Strauss, who inspired so many people during her short life. Also joining Fr. Bob is **Marian Shugrue**, who serves as the program director for St. Martin's on Westlake, a housing unit for chronically homeless men over the age of 55.



Regarding abortion and euthanasia: Unless liberty is devoted to the defense of life, neither life nor liberty can survive.

Assumption School News 733-6133

Christmas Vacation: December 22, 2008 - January 2, 2009. School resumes 1/5/09.

Assumption Catholic School, In cooperation with the National Catholic Education Association, seeks nominees for the 2009 Distinguished Graduate Award. This award is intended to honor Assumption School graduates who have made a contribution to American life and/or the Catholic Church. The recipient must have graduated from Assumption Catholic School at least ten years prior to presenting the award. The school selects the awardee and NCEA confirms the nomination. You can download the form at www.school.assumption.org/SupportUs2.html or call the school to receive a form by mail. Completed nomination forms must be returned by January 5, 2009 for full consideration. For more information, contact Jennifer Rick at jrick@school.assumption.org or 733-6133.

December 20 & December 21

Fourth Sunday Of Advent

2 Sam 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16, Rom 16:25-27, Gospel: (Luke 1:26-38)

Dec. 21 8:30 a.m. **Mass** Church

Sun. 9:45 a.m. RE/First Rec./First Comm. Parish Center
 9:45 a.m. Coffee Hour Parish Hall
 9:45 a.m. Children's Christmas Play Rehearsal Library
 10:15 a.m. Children's Christmas Choir Rehearsal Library
 11:00 a.m. **Mass** Church
 12:15 p.m. Bible Study St. Augustine
 1:00 p.m. **Vietnamese Mass** Church
 2:30 p.m. Church Decoration Church
 6:00 p.m. No SALT Upper Room/Assumption

Gospel: (Luke 1:46-56)

Dec. 22 **No Mass**

Mon. 4:00 p.m. Children's Christmas Play Rehearsal Church
 5:00 p.m. Children's Christmas Choir Rehearsal Church
 7:00 p.m. **No EDGE** Assumption Gym

John of Kanty, priest, Gospel: (Luke 1:57-66)

Dec. 23 1:30 p.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry St. Nicholas

Tues. 4:00 p.m. Children's Christmas Play Rehearsal Church
 5:00 p.m. Children's Christmas Choir Rehearsal Church
 5:00 p.m. Reconciliation Church
 6:00 p.m. **Mass** (Helen Mosher) (+) Church

Vigil of Christmas

Office closed at 12 Noon, reopens Jan. 2nd

Gospel: (Matthew 1:1-25)

Dec. 24 4:30 p.m. Children's Carols Church

Wed. 5:00 p.m. **Children's Christmas Mass** Church
 8:30-9:00 p.m. Christmas Carols Church
 9:00 p.m. **Christmas Eve Vigil Mass** Church
 11:30 p.m. Christmas Carols Church
 12:00 a.m. **Christmas Midnight Mass** Church

Christmas Day (Nativity of the Lord)

Gospel: (John 1:1-18)

Dec. 25 8:30 a.m. **Christmas Mass at Dawn** Church
 11:00 a.m. **Christmas Day Mass** Church

Stephen, first martyr, Gospel: (Matthew 10:17-22)

Dec. 26 11:15 p.m. Reconciliation Church

Fri. 12:10 p.m. **Mass** Winter Chapel

Gen 15:1-6; 21:-1 3, Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19, Gospel: (Luke 2:22-40)

Dec. 27 8:30 p.m. **Mass** Chapel
 5:00 p.m. **Mass** Church

Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

Gen 15:1-6; 21:-1 3, Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19, Gospel: (Luke 2:22-40)

Dec. 28 8:30 a.m. **Mass** Church

Sun. 9:45 a.m. No Coffee Hour Parish Hall
 11:00 a.m. **Mass** Church
 6:00 p.m. No SALT Upper Room/Assumption

Project Rachel

Retreats for those women who have had an abortion

The next English retreat will be in Feb. 20 - 20, 2009

Call Valerie: 1-800-822-HOPE (4673)

You are loved with an everlasting Love!

If you are participating in either the choir or the play at the children's Christmas Mass on December 24th, please note your arrival time:

Choir members, arrive at 4:15

Play participants, arrive at 4:30

The Church doors will open at 3:30

Please arrive early as seating will fill up fast.

Reminder:

Kid's Choir Rehearsals

Dec 22nd and 23rd from 5:00 - 6:00 p.m. in Church

Kid's Play Rehearsals

Dec.22nd and 23rd from 4:00 - 5:00 p.m. in Church

Parents, we will begin and end rehearsals promptly!

During the next couple of weeks while we are experiencing this wonderful Winter weather, Sacred Heart will post any program changes or cancellations on the phone message and the website at www.sacredheartbellingham.org. (Click on the weather update button).



Worldwide Marriage Encounter

Remember on Christmas morning that special feeling of love you had for your spouse? A Marriage Encounter Weekend will show you how to keep that special feeling all year round. Upcoming weekend dates are March 27-29 and June 19-21, 2009. For more information and registration, please call Kay and Mike Gougeon, 671-6955.

Sacred Heart's Stewardship Gift Corner December 13 & 14, 2008

Envelopes (82)	\$	4,954.00
Visitors	\$	325.98
Children (0)	\$	<u>0.00</u>
Total Sunday Income	\$	5,279.98
Weekly Budget Need	\$	8,097.11
Holy Day	\$	30.00
St. Vincent de Paul	\$	110.00
Building & Grounds	\$	82.00
Assumption School	\$	55.00

2009 Stewardship Update

260 pledges have been received, or 36% of registered households. Thank you to all who have responded. Our goal is 50% response! If you haven't returned your commitment card, please consider doing so at this time. We will begin the budgeting process in January and will plan next year's programs based upon your pledges.

Don't forget to complete your pledge for 2008 by the end of December—also the end of the tax year!